

Communique'

Summer/Fall 2005

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



From the Director

“Change is good”

It has been a little over 18 months since Governor Schwarzenegger afforded me the privilege of becoming director of this department. It has been a time of highs and lows, change and challenges – everything that comes with leading the best fire and emergency response, forestry, and fire marshal department in the world.

Effective December 30, 2005, I will be retiring from CDF. As much as we would all like to remain on active duty, retirement eventually catches up to all of us. It has been an extreme honor to have been the director of CDF and to have worked with an outstanding team of loyal, dedicated and professional employees.

With this column I want to address a few of those changes and challenges that occurred over my 18-month tenure as your director.

I would first like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our 100 Year

Anniversary Celebration at the state capitol in May a success. Amid many days of pouring rain, the clouds parted long enough for our celebration to take place. Thank you also to Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman for representing the Governor and making a fitting speech honoring CDF's 100 years. The CDF Commemorative History Book is arriving on your doorsteps as we speak; the CDF Museum celebrated its grand opening on October 6 in San Bernardino and you have several weeks left to honor this department's first 100 years and look forward to the future.

Now let me address change in the department. I am the first to admit that change is tough. But it is necessary, and it is a good thing. I told the Governor during our first meeting that I would commit to providing leadership for CDF and that leadership would include reorganizing the department into a

functional and functioning department that would best fit the mission it fulfills today – both operationally and administratively. This is a huge, multi-task department. Taking a page from the past, as of August 1, 2005, I reorganized the department back into four regions to allow our region chiefs more time to focus on issues within each region. Those four region chiefs report directly to the deputy director for fire protection. I also added two assistant deputy director positions in fire protection here in Sacramento to assist with program management and policy delivery.

CDF is the largest and the best at what it does. I know you will always respond to every fire, earthquake, flood, medical aid, and hazardous material spill to which you are dispatched, but there is also a tremendous behind-the-scenes system that supports you. That system gets fire engines from manufacturers to the stations; ensures plenty of available Nomex; guarantees working radio equipment and breathing apparatus; provides instructors for Academy classes; and puts paychecks in the mail. We are so large compared to other fire departments that we tend to move slower when we need to change our operational, administrative, or management systems to keep up with the times. Looking to the past does not necessarily mean going backwards – we can always learn from the way things have been done and can apply certain applications to our current situation.

Change in terms of budgeting and funding for all California government agencies has been front page news for quite some time now. That includes CDF. The fire service is one of the top priorities in all government structures, but planning for and always being on top of our needs is a priority now more than ever. The governor and the Legislature were very supportive of CDF this year in terms of our budget. I am happy to say that we saw some permanent ongoing funding, not one time

augmentations as had been the norm. Proper long-term funding is a priority for maintaining the mission of this department. CDF received an annual ongoing augmentation to our equipment budget of \$10.8 million. This money will initially be used to help us replace our outdated fire engine fleet with newer and safer models. Be sure you read the article on the new 34 and 35 models in this issue. Down the road, this funding will be used for helicopter replacements in our Aviation Program.

The department also received \$9 million in an annual ongoing augmentation that will allow CDF to maintain full firefighter staffing throughout the year in the Southern Region. Firefighters will remain on active duty during the winter months to assist with fuel reduction and fire safety education activities. A five year, \$2.4 million allocation for radio equipment that will allow the department to move towards more compatibility and provide additional handheld radios for our federal and local partners when they are called to assist us in wildland situations.

On the Resource Management side, times have been challenging, and change is ongoing. The inability to harvest timber on our Jackson Demonstration State Forest has impacted funding in almost every program area of Resource Management. Completion of an approved management plan for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest is our highest priority and staff has been working diligently toward that end with a draft environmental impact report. It is imperative that we get things going on the “demonstration” side again – that is the intent of our state forest program, and we need to be able to once again show the public the benefits of research and demonstration projects on forest management while simultaneously providing public recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.

Change for CDF will obviously continue. Be positive about it - I am. One hundred years of history proves that this department has only grown and improved with change.

You also will see in this issue of the Communiqué and in upcoming issues, articles on many new executive staff. Some are the result of reorganization and some from retirements. From the state fire marshal to deputy directors, to assistant deputy directors, region chiefs and unit chiefs, be sure you take the time to know who these people are – they all play a role in the department you work for.

It has been a challenging summer for emergency responders. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Southeast. Hurricane Wilma followed shortly after. The destruction is the worst the United States has ever seen. CDF sent members as part of Urban Search and Rescue teams, and an Incident Management Task Force to help in organizing efforts. You can read about CDF's efforts to assist in the

wake of the hurricanes on the CDF website. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who are suffering and who have lost loved ones. We also saw significant fires in Southern California, but state, local and federal agencies worked side by side to battle them successfully.

Lastly and most important, as the first rains begin to fall in California, let's remember that CDF responds 24/7, 365 days a year. In my short tenure I attended the funerals of two CDF firefighters – Eva Schicke and Chris Kanton. This part of my job broke my heart. I want each and every one of you to think SAFETY FIRST when you are out there.

As I say goodbye, I wish each of well. I will continue to keep an eye on CDF. You are the very best, do not forget that.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Dale T. Geldert

Director

“Governor’s Executive Order expands fire fighting efforts

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger made good on his intention to expand statewide firefighting efforts by signing an executive order on July 20 that provides additional staffing and resources to enhance the department’s mission.

The order increases staffing levels to four firefighters for each of 53 engines in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties during the highest fire threat periods. It also assigns additional resources to the CDF contract counties of Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange, and provides staffing for four additional Conservation Camp fire crews in southern California as well as a helicopter based in San

Diego County.

“I have seen the devastating effect wildfires can have,” said the governor. “The executive order I am signing today strengthens prevention by making our forest areas healthier and less of a fire risk and mobilizes more direct support to the firefighting effort.”

At the same time, he also called on Californians to take common sense precautions including cleaning pine needles and leaves off of roofs, developing an evacuation plan and creating 100 feet of defensible space around their homes.

100 Years of CDF

Not even overcast weather or an occasional downpour could dampen the celebration of CDF's 100 year anniversary. Hundred's of CDF employees, past and present, along with members of the public, media, and legislature, turned out for the 100 year celebration held on May 9 on the west steps of the state capitol in Sacramento.

Visitors were greeted with static displays representing the programs, history and equipment of CDF. An assortment of new and old equipment lined the west steps and the entire block in front of the capitol. A 1931 Ford fire engine, along with a 1956 and 1963 Model 1 engine were brought in for the event. A HazMat Unit, dozer transport, ladder truck and helitender were also on hand. Up on the capitol steps sat an emergency crew transport, old green crew carrying vehicle, Model 14 engine, Model 25 engine and one of CDF's very first engines courtesy of Kern County Fire. A mobile kitchen unit, and emergency communications unit were among the many other pieces of emergency equipment showcased at the event. An OV-10 airtactical plane engine sat on the sidewalk in front of the aviation display, CDF tools, badges, patches and uniforms from "back-in-the-day" to today were also laid out. Many people came out to learn how CDF has become one of the world's leading fire and resource protection departments. Many came to reminisce with fellow CDFers they had not seen in years. Others had actually played major roles in creating department history including four past directors: David Pesonen, Gerald Partain, Richard Wilson, and Andrea Tuttle. At 10 a.m., CDF Employee Support Services Administrator Jay Donnelly quieted the crowd of about 500. The sound of bagpipes and drums

filled the air as the CDF Firefighters 2881 Honor Guard Pipe and Drum Band made their way up the sidewalk to the stage.

Chief Deputy Director Mark Stanley welcomed the audience and thanked them for their continued support which has allowed CDF to always meet its mission. "That is really what CDF is, a team, one large family," he said. Next to address the audience was Director Geldert, who spoke about the diversity of the CDF staff. "This is the finest organization in the world," he said. Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman represented the Governor's Office and discussed the proud legacy of CDF.

CDF Employee Support Services Administrator Jay Donnelly presided over the CDF Bell Ceremony and then Chief Stanley ended the presentation and thanked the audience for attending the celebration. When he asked if anyone had anything they would like to add. Former Director Gerald Partain stood and asked that a message be taken back to the governor, who was unable to attend to the event. "When you see Governor Schwarzenegger, tell him there are no girly men in CDF."

With the celebration of CDF's 100 years coming to end, current CDFers can now look towards a bright new future of another 100 great years.

Check out the video from the 100 Year event on the CDF website

http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/about_through-the-years.php

Thank yous

There are many organizations and CDF employees that made the May 9 event a reality.
Huge Kudos to all of you!

Senator Shiela Kuehl
legislative sponsor for the event

CDF Firefighters
*contributed funding for the
banners, posters and programs*

CDF 25 Year Club
*contributed funding for the
100 Year pins and refreshments*

**CDF Historical Society and
Museum**

**California Department of
Water Resources Graphics Unit**

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**CDF Firefighters 2881
Honor Guard Pipe and Drum
Band**
*Don Ayers, Dave Diggs, Scott
Ferguson, Mike Greer, Siele Lakes,
Nikole Melo, Mike Mohler, Nick
Perricelli, Lupe Ramirez, Moses
Sarinana,
Gordon Winingham, and mascot,
Ahren*

Ruben Grijalva

State Fire Marshal

“Consensus Building”

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Ruben Grijalva the 13th State Fire Marshal August, 2004. Chief Grijalva has, in a little more than a year, dealt with major building code revisions, a deadly fuel-line blast in Walnut Creek in November, and the investigation of a horrendous Fourth of July fireworks display accident in Marysville. He has also outlined a draft two year plan for the future of the OSFM and has come to love the job, challenges and all.

Chief Grijalva spent the previous 10 years as the Palo Alto Fire Chief. As a member of the Palo Alto Fire Department and the City of Sunnyvale in both police and fire capacities, Grijalva has more than 30 years experience in public safety. That includes extensive skill in negotiations, from labor to legislative, and from code development to hostage negotiations. Chief Grijalva was the primary hostage negotiator in the 1988 Sunnyvale incident at ESL, Inc. where the largest mass murder in Santa Clara history occurred. Grijalva spent five hours trying to persuade Richard Wade Farley, who had killed seven people and injured four others, to surrender and let the other hostages go. Farley eventually agreed.

High pressure negotiations? “That’s life,” said Chief Grijalva. “If you think about it a lot of what we do is a negotiation. My background includes dealing with the Legislature, local government, unions, and industry.” He noted that through it all he has always loved the jobs that he has held, and this one is no different.

He approaches his current position as a “consensus builder.” “I believe in bringing everyone together, putting all the issues on the table – good and bad,” said Grijalva. “No one gets everything they want, but everyone gets

something.”

Chief Grijalva’s two-year draft plan outlines priorities for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. He has widely distributed that draft for input and consensus building. The plan issues involve many components but Chief Grijalva is looking to deal with the following:

•Improving communications between the OSFM and its stakeholders, and to improve communications within the OSFM staff at all levels in general.

•Increasing safety and professionalism within the fire services through the State Fire Training program.

•Dealing with the ever present illegal fireworks trade in California.

•Educating stakeholders on the Wildland Urban Interface Building Standards with the goal of adopting new building standards for structures built in wildland areas.

•Continuing implementation of the new California Building Codes that the OSFM has been working on since Chief Grijalva came on board.

While these comprise the top of the list, Chief Grijalva’s “To Do List” is long. “CDF executive staff and Chief Grijalva are committed to completing the merger of CDF and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. After 10 years it is time to complete this project,” said Grijalva. “The staff is in place now to make this happen and issues are being resolved to truly integrate the two entities.”

Succession planning is another issue facing both CDF and the OSFM. “We know that we need to train and keep our good employees, and prepare for losing those who are retiring, or who

choose to leave,” said Grijalva. “I have seen a dedication within CDF and the OSFM, the pay is not always as good as outside, but these folks are dedicated to the mission,” said Grijalva.

Chief Grijalva has made progress in the area of succession within the OSFM filling recently filling a number of positions including the appointment of an assistant state fire marshal, a new assistant deputy director, a new chief of state fire training, a new chief of fire engineering and a new chief of fire and life safety (north), and two new supervisors. “We are also in the process of testing for a new chief of pipeline safety,” added Grijalva.

As Fire Marshal, Chief Grijalva sits on the State Film Commission and does get to deal with the movie industry. When things explode into flames in our favorite films, they were filmed under the watchful eyes of OSFM staff to ensure that no one got hurt. That is if a film is made here in California. “We want to increase the number of films being shot here in California,” said Grijalva, “To make sure that happens we need to place safety first, without making the regulation process a red-tape nightmare. I’m working now to help streamline the processes and improve the relationships the film industry has with those of us who regulate such as CalOSHA and the OSFM.”

What other issues are on Chief Grijalva’s list? Indian gaming is huge in California. Being sovereign nations, Indian tribes are not bound by state fire regulations. The tribes in California recently signed a Fire and Life Safety compact agreeing to comply with these regulations. “It is a new process for both sides, but a very positive one. OSFM staff are working closely with the casinos to establish a relationship that will benefit both sides.”

Then there is the Hydrogen Highway, which has been making headlines since Governor

Schwarzenegger took office. This proposed system of hydrogen fueled vehicles is built around a network of roughly 200 hydrogen fueling stations spread throughout the state. The State Fire Marshal is involved in creating standardized minimum and maximum regulations for these new fueling stations to prevent different, and competing local government regulations from becoming an issue.

Even while dealing with all these issues, Chief Grijalva has managed to spend time traveling. “I make sure I am in our Monrovia Office in Southern California on a regular basis to keep in touch with our staff down there,” said Ruben. “I have also been attending as many industry meetings as possible, meeting with our stakeholders to make sure that the OSFM is connecting with the people we represent.”

“The support out there has been very encouraging – everyone wants the OSFM to be successful,” added Grijalva. He recently put out requests to fill working group and committee slots and found the response from the fire service and industry to be very positive following his efforts to meet one on one and reconnect with these stakeholders.

You have to believe that the positive outlook Chief Grijalva exudes will carry through as he works on planned and unplanned issues at the OSFM and as part of CDF.

He is very clear about his most successful accomplishment – his marriage of 30 years, and his family of four sons. “I have always looked forward to going to work, and I have always looked forward to going home.”

For more information on the Office of the State Fire Marshal, including a 2004-2005 Annual Report visit:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

Fire fighting helicopters

Interagency program bolsters San Diego County's fire suppression power

San Diego Sheriff Bill Kolender unveiled two Bell 205 A-1++ medium lift fire fighting helicopters during a press conference at ASTREA base in El Cajon on July 8, 2005.

The aircraft were purchased from Eagle Helicopters of Calgary using \$3.5 million of county money and a \$1.5 million grant from the county's Indian casinos. Upon arrival, both new helicopters were inspected by sheriff's aviation mechanics and test flown by retired CDF Chief Pilot Cecil Gill.

These are the first two aircraft bought for the new regional fire helicopter program the county created after the wildfires of 2003. The county's lack of fire-fighting helicopters became a hot-button political issue after those fires.

The new Bell 205 program is dedicated to providing efficient fire suppression operations to all area fire agencies. The fire mission is the first priority of these aircraft, but they will also be utilized to perform technical rescue operations when necessary.

As of October 31, the interagency helicopter program had responded to 192 calls for service and taken action at over 120 incidents. The helicopters had flown more than 440 hours and dropped over 398,950 gallons of water on vegetation fires. The program is slowly migrating into the rescue phase, where the high altitude/hot temperature capabilities of these unique helicopters will become very beneficial. The program personnel have completed the necessary hoist rescue training and have performed several successful rescues.

Because these helicopters are owned by the county of San Diego, they do not have any restrictions on how they may be used. This recently allowed a unique and historic partnership between the copter program and a television production company under contract to the Discovery Channel. Watch the Discovery

Channel in early 2006 for an inside look into the lives and emergency response role of the CDF San Diego Unit helitack crew.

"Outside of our relationship with our federal counterparts, I can think of no other cooperative effort that has blossomed in the way this program has," said CDF Captain Steve Shoemaker. "We truly feel the support for this program from throughout the CDF chain of command, and the sheriff's office has overwhelmingly welcomed this partnership with the San Diego Unit."

CDF provided unprecedented logistical support during the training period including loaner helicopters and technical expertise from current and retired members of the Aviation Management Unit. The San Diego Unit helitack staff spent nearly 400 flight hours this winter helping retired CDF Chief Pilot Cecil Gill in preparing the San Diego Sheriff's Office's four most experienced pilots for the Super Huey fire mission. In addition to the flight training, each pilot completed an aviator variation of the Fire Fighter I-Basic academy including skills testing on shelter deployments, S-190 fire behavior, ICS 200 and CDF Helitack operations. Currently both Bell aircraft are CDF/USFS carded as are the ASTREA mechanics, four pilots and one fuel truck. Additionally, three of their MD 500 series helicopters are also carded with four additional MD 500 pilots and can deliver 80 to 100 gallons of water via the smaller Bambi bucket system.

The fire helicopters are staffed with one pilot, one CDF helitack captain and when necessary a crew chief. Both are equipped with a hoist, a simplex belly tank and a night sun search light.

The Super Hueys are the largest and most powerful helicopters the sheriff's department

staff have ever flown. Its pilots previously operated light observation helicopters, such as the MD 500 series, and before that, the Korean War-era Bell 47s, similar to those seen on the TV series “M*A*S*H.”

The ASTREA program already has an excellent reputation in the law enforcement community as their pilots are some of the most experienced law enforcement pilots in the country. They are very familiar with the county and they know where the hazards are such as

power lines, small landing strips and erratic winds.

“Over the past few years I have watched them perform some heroically technical rescues with their helicopters and they have always been meticulous about safety,” said San Diego Unit Fire Apparatus Engineer Matt Streck.

“We are extremely proud of the Sheriff’s Aviation Fire and Rescue program and look forward to the possibilities as we build this program together,” said Shoemaker.

Defensible space-more /S better!

by Frank Goddard, deputy chief, Wildland Fire Engineering

Burning homes, grief stricken homeowners, and thousands of firefighters battling insurmountable flames are the images still clear in our minds from the 2003 fire siege in Southern California. The loss of 24 lives during that siege should drive home the extreme danger that comes with living in the wildlands of fire-prone California.

The recent Topanga Fire in Los Angeles County burned more than 24,000 acres and threatened more than 3,000 homes. Only three were lost, but the potential was there. Since there are only so many firefighters and fire engines in the state, homeowners living in these areas must take some responsibility to help reduce the risk of these losses. Not only is it the right thing to do, it is the law.

For as long as I can remember, we have been inspecting properties for compliance with Public Resources Code, Section 4291. PRC 4291 requires homeowners to reduce the amount of flammable fuels around their homes and other structures, primarily by reducing the amount of natural and planted vegetation.

By reducing these flammable fuels,

homeowners improve the chance that their home will survive a wildland fire, reduce the potential of a house fire spreading to the surrounding forest or brush to become a major wildland fire, and create a safer area for firefighters to work to stop the flames.

Even during a so-called average wildfire year, nearly 2000 structures are destroyed within CDF’s jurisdiction. And given the fuels (vegetation), topography (hills and mountains), and the weather (hot, dry, and sometimes windy summers) in California, any year has the potential to burn hundreds of thousands of acres, destroy hundreds, and sometimes thousands of homes, and unfortunately take more lives, all due to wildfires.

To improve the situation, last year Senator Shiela Kuehl authored Senate Bill (SB) 1369 which was passed by the legislature and approved by the governor. Probably the biggest change was to increase the defensible space surrounding homes and other structures from the previously required 30 feet out to 100 feet. This has resulted in many questions from homeowners, especially regarding how much vegetation has to be removed to be in

compliance. “A 100 foot ring of bare dirt, no trees, ???” That flies in the face of the reason most Californians move to the wildlands. There are, however, ways to be fire safe and still enjoy nature.

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, which develops and approves regulations under the California Code of Regulations, is working with department staff to clarify the new legislation and create regulations and guidelines for homeowners. The rule language for those newly proposed regulations and guidelines were posted for a 45-day public comment period on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection website on October 28. The expectation is that these new regulations will probably take effect in time for next year’s fire season.

In the interim, Jim Wright, CDF deputy director for Fire Protection, has instructed department personnel to assist homeowners in the following manner: Help homeowners look at what has been appropriate for the previous 30 foot requirement, make sure they are in total compliance within that zone, and then begin looking at what additional vegetation removal might be suitable to make their property fire safe within 100 feet.

CDF and other agencies have published guidelines, both in written form and on the Internet. Some of these guidelines include recommendations such as providing 10 to 15 feet spacing between shrubs, bushes and trees. The purpose is to reduce the risk of this vegetation carrying a wildfire from the wildlands to your home and vice versa.

In addition tree limbs should be pruned up 10 to 15 feet above the ground, and any vegetation growing underneath a tree should be removed. This will reduce the chances that a wildfire burning along the ground will carry up into the tree crowns, causing a much worse wildfire condition.

Until the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection completes the rule making process, CDF inspectors are urged to use common sense and professional judgment when advising homeowners and conducting inspections out to 100 feet (or the property line whichever is closer). As Chief Wright has said many times, “The important thing is to break up the horizontal and vertical continuity of the fuels.”

You can view the board’s proposed language at:

http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board/board_proposed_rule_packages.aspx

Check out the new 100’ Defensible Space Fact Sheet

http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/about_content/downloads/Defens_space_flyer2.pdf

CDF’s newest engines - the Model 34 and 35

*by Leah Sandberg, office technician,
Lassen-Modoc Unit*

CDF recently added two new models of engines to its vehicle fleet: the Model 34 (4-wheel drive) and the Model 35 (2-wheel drive). These engines will replace the Model 14 and 15 that have been used by CDF since 1990. The

concept for the new engines came about when an equipment advisory committee consisting of chiefs, fleet managers and field personnel were tasked with the goal of designing a new Type III apparatus.

The Model 14 and 15 engines had been experiencing problems with overheating. In addition, there was a serious lack of storage space for the complement of equipment, tools and personal gear that must be carried on these apparatus.

From this problem manufacturers began to work on a chassis that could accommodate a much larger and taller four-door crew cab. CDF decided to take advantage of this new design to meet its need for storage, plus take the opportunity to create an improved apparatus that would utilize a two-pump system. As a result of the input from the advisory committee, two conceptual fire apparatuses were developed and produced by Pierce Manufacturing. These engines were designated as the CDF Model 24 (4-wheel drive) and Model 25 (2-wheel drive). The new models included many improvements and new features, but CDF felt there were additional components that should be incorporated into the new design. They were interested in an apparatus body that featured a full pump panel and integral wet-sided tank on a 2005 International 7400 series chassis. This spring mounted integral body and tank design

had been a CDF standard for decades.

The new design, christened the Model 34 and Model 35, features an independent pump module, the PTO operated 500 gallon per minute two-stage fire pump for stationary pumping and the 180-gallon per minute auxiliary pump. Like the Model 24, these engines have an electric pump pressure governor and stainless steel plumbing and tank. They also have D-Ring compartment latches for easy opening with a gloved hand, double front discharge valves, a rear discharge, and 2-inch Akron valves in lieu of the standard 1-½ inch discharge valves. The new engine has a 40 percent increase in storage capacity compared to the old Model 14 and 15. Improved exterior lighting, hand tool bracketing, SCBA mounting brackets and Handi-talki holders mounted on the center console are just a few of the many improvements the Model 34/35 bring. Twelve of the new Model 34 engines are currently under construction for CDF at Placer Fire Equipment in Sacramento. To date there have been three Model 34s delivered, and there are nine additional Model 34 engines and eight Model 35 engines in production.

**In 1928, the State Division of Forestry acquired one Moreland fire truck and added four more in 1929. By 1934, the division's fleet had grown to 162. Four years later the Davis Equipment Facility opened and fire engines were being built there during the winter months. Military surplus vehicles were widely used after WWII, and by late 1945 the inventory reached 733. Fifteen years later in the early 60s the number had nearly doubled to 1,400. In 2005, CDF's fleet includes more than 2,800 vehicles – including 383 fire engines in 12 different models.*

Michael Jarvis

Deputy Director, Communications

Michael Jarvis brings a diverse and unconventional background to his role as the new deputy director of communications at CDF.

A native of Visalia, Jarvis worked for his family's two newspapers -- the Valley Voice and

the San Joaquin Eagle -- in high school before studying journalism at the College of the Sequoias. He studied natural resource management at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for one year before transferring to Fresno State.

There he was an editor, columnist and staff writer for both student newspapers and a radio news anchor. Jarvis received two California Interscholastic Press Association awards and was nominated for a Hearst award for editorial writing at Fresno State.

In 1987 he was named assistant editor at the Dinuba Sentinel, where he covered high school sports, wrote features, hard news and obituaries. The following year he was hired as a reporter for the daily Advance Register newspaper in Tulare. In August of 1988 he became a reporter at the Mammoth Times weekly newspaper in Mammoth Lakes. He later was named editor of the paper but resigned when he was elected to the Mono County Board of Supervisors in 1990 at the age of 27.

Over the course of the four-year term as a county supervisor, Jarvis worked part time as a high school journalism teacher, a movie theater projectionist, a weekly magazine editor and was the daily snow reporter for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Jarvis was a co-founder of the Field of Dreams Foundation that built a baseball field for Mammoth High School. He was also a key player in the Mono Lake agreement of 1993 that reduced the amount of water diverted from the Mono Basin by half. As a board member with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, he negotiated multiple budgets with the City of Los Angeles to help prevent dust storms on Owens Lake. Jarvis did not seek re-election and retired from the board of supervisors in 1995. A contaminated well at Owens Lake was named in his honor in recognition of his efforts to protect the basin.

In 1995 Jarvis worked as a registered lobbyist in Sacramento on behalf of numerous counties and statewide employee associations. He left that job to deliver ice sculptures and write speeches. In 1996 he was hired by 20th Century Fox television as a writer for a game show pilot. Over the next few years he worked

on a variety of nonfiction TV programs as an associate producer for the History Channel, the Travel Channel, Court TV and A&E. He wrote and produced the documentary “Rat People: Friends & Foes” for the DVD release of the film “Willard” from New Line Cinema. He also worked as a writer on the game shows “The Weakest Link” on NBC and “Singled Out” on MTV as well as the entertainment news magazine “Access Hollywood.” Jarvis worked as a researcher for the Warner Bros. Research & Film Library and in various capacities on A&E’s “Biography.” He also wrote the narration for a faux documentary directed by Spike Jonze for a viral marketing campaign for Volvo in 2004.

His first article for the Los Angeles Times appeared in December of 1999. Jarvis subsequently wrote hundreds of articles for various sections of the Times as a frequent contributor. He also wrote and produced radio segments for KUSC radio and last February wrote a full-length feature on the president of Sony television for Baltimore magazine. Despite his background, Jarvis says his current job with CDF is the most interesting he’s had so far.

In his new job Jarvis oversees the Public Affairs and Public Education staff in Sacramento. He is responsible for coordinating with the units as well as the Office of the State Fire Marshal any information that needs to go to the media and the public. Jarvis also coordinates the message from the director’s office and the CDF administration to the field. He helps write press releases, coordinates press conferences, participates in outreach programs and works as a liaison between CDF and the Resources Agency. Jarvis said that his goal for the future is to work on getting more media coverage in all aspects of the department.

He was appointed in March 2005 by Governor Schwarzenegger. Jarvis lives in Sacramento with his wife Liz, who speaks several languages including Japanese, and their one year-old son, Michael.

CDF Communications Staff

Michael Jarvis - Deputy Director

Vacant - Education/Information Officer

Lisa Boyd - Electronic/Print Information Manager

Kay Antunez - Project Learning Tree Coordinator

Jean LaClair - Communications Administrative Assistant

Vacant - Communications Secretary

Daniel Berlant - Communications Student Assistant

Karen Terrill - Information Officer II

Jan St. Pierre - Office Assistant

Giny Chandler *Chief Legal Counsel*

Ginevra “Giny” Chandler began practicing law in 1990. Since her admittance into the State Bar Association of California she has worked across the state for private law firms and in the public sector. She quickly discovered that she enjoyed focusing her legal knowledge on environmental issues such as natural resources and timber rights.

Chandler began her legal career in 1988 when she worked as an intern for the Federal Public Defender’s Office in Los Angeles. After graduating from Loyola Law School with a judicial doctrine she began working for the law firm Best, Best, & Krieger in Riverside. After four years with the firm she worked as a contract attorney for public agencies including the Central & Western Basin Municipal Water Districts and the Marin County Counsel’s Office. In 1995 Chandler moved to Humboldt County to be a deputy county counsel for land use for the county. She was also cross deputized as a deputy district attorney. In 2000

she decided to return to private practice at the law firm of Carter, Behnke, Oglesby & Bacik in Mendocino County.

In February of 2005 Chandler was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to be the chief counsel for CDF. In her new job she is responsible for representing the department in all legal cases.

“I have worked both for public agencies and for private clients in my 14 years of practice. If I have learned anything, it is that cooperation and active listening are keys to resolving regulatory disputes,” said Chandler.

It is clear that with Chandler’s broad experience in private and public practice, she will be an asset to the department.

Giny oversees a staff of four including: Staff Counsel Bruce Crane, Staff Counsel Dianne Robbins, Senior Legal Analyst Odette Leppington and Office Technician Kim Spire.

David Titus

Deputy Director, Legislation

by Alisha Herring, executive assistant, Executive Office

David Titus brought 20 years of experience, knowledge and background in legislation to CDF when he was appointed as CDF deputy director for legislation in late 2004.

After graduating with a degree in political science from the California State University, Fullerton, Titus began his career as a legislative aid for the State Assembly and then the Senate. In 1990 Titus left state service to work for the California Trucking Association where he developed and implemented lobbying strategy, coordinated policy and directed legislative staff to produce position papers and model legislation. In 1995 he was appointed director of public affairs and increased his responsibilities by becoming the chief spokesperson for the association and managing the political action committee (CARGO PAC).

In late 1995 Titus took a campaign manager position with Assemblyman Rico Oller's office, and was appointed staff chief for the assemblyman in January 1997. In that position he developed campaign strategy, supervised and maintained all legislation, and managed staff overseeing several counties. When Oller moved from the Assembly to the Senate, Titus continued to serve as his chief of staff.

Titus is responsible for directing the development of legislation related to meeting departmental goals; formulating and coordinating the department's position on all federal and state legislation; appearing before legislative committees in support of or in opposition to bills of interest to the CDF; directing the

preparation of bill analyses and enrolled bill reports. He also ensures documents are accurate and in compliance with CDF policy, advising the director of the progress of legislation and action needed; providing information on legislation to legislators and their staff, other governmental agencies, and the public; providing summaries of legislation enacted; and managing critical projects or issues on behalf of the director. Titus oversees CDF's five-member legislation team headed by Steve McLean which reads over 2000 pieces of legislation and tracks and analyzes hundreds of bills each year.

Titus recently married his wife, Ashlee, a Sacramento attorney. They live in Folsom with his two daughters, Jacqueline and Katherine "KT". Titus's interests include skiing ("the more vertical the better," he says), winemaking (he owns five acres of Zinfandel grapes), and baseball. Titus is a lifetime follower of the now Los Angeles Angels. When asked of his impressions of CDF, Titus replied, "CDF has a very good reputation as a solid department. Most of the goodwill at the state capitol stems from the hard work and character of our employees in the field. They make this challenging job enjoyable and rewarding."

CDF Legislation Staff

Dave Titus - Deputy Director

Steve McClean - Legislation Manager

Debbie Spurgeon - Legislation Analyst

Kathleen Jensen - Legislation Analyst

Monika Giebitz - Legislation Analyst

Matthew Reeder - Legislation Office Technician

Russ Henly

Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection & Improvement

by Leah Sandberg, office technician, Lassen-Modoc Unit

Russ Henly was named Assistant Deputy Director for Resource Protection and Improvement in March of 2005, but his tenure with CDF began long before that time. Russ joined CDF in 1992 when he was hired as a policy analyst in the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). In 1999, as a forester II, he began developing watershed data sets and models, and conducting watershed assessments as a part of a new watershed focus at FRAP. He promoted to deputy chief in 2001 and managed the CDF component of the multiagency North Coast Watershed Assessment Program.

Before coming to CDF, Russ spent many years doing various research and teaching jobs. He worked as a student intern for the U.S. Forest Service in 1985, was a research specialist for the University of Minnesota from 1985-1987, and was a teaching and research assistant for the University of California, Berkeley, from 1987 through 1990.

Russ currently serves on the Technical Advisory Committee of the California Watershed Network and was the Policy Committee Chairman and Secretary of the Northern California Society of American Foresters. He has written several publications and papers throughout his career.

Russ currently oversees eight programs. "It's a great position with a set of very positive programs to work with," Russ said. These programs include the eight Demonstration State Forests operated by CDF. These forests total 71,000 acres. They grow approximately 75 million board feet yearly and, as a part of research and demonstration efforts, have historically harvested an average of 30 million board feet of timber each year. Revenue from

these harvests fund a variety of the department's Resource Management Programs. Russ also oversees the two nurseries operated by CDF: Magalia and L.A. Moran.

His staff is responsible for the ***Vegetation Management Program***, which focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands; the ***Urban Forestry Program***, the purpose of which is to create sustainable urban forests to help improve the quality of urban environments and the quality of life; the ***Forestry Assistance Program*** which seeks to reduce wildland fuel loads and improve the health and productivity of private forest lands; the ***Forest Legacy Program***, which protects environmentally important forestland threatened with conversion to non-forest uses such as subdivision for residential or commercial development; and, the ***Pest Management Program***, which helps protect the state's forest resources from native and introduced pests and promotes forest health on all forest lands.

A new addition to Russ' portfolio of programs is a Proposition 40 funded fuels reduction program targeted to protect watersheds and water quality in 15 Sierra Nevada counties. "With the leadership of Deputy Director Bill Snyder and the hard work of Jeff Stephens, Tony Mediati, Scotia Brosnan, and many others in the units and regions, a total of almost 100 projects valued at \$5.7 million were funded last year," Russ said.

"Right now we are focusing a lot of energy on the Demonstration State Forests Program," Russ said. "Within the last few years,

management of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) was put on hold due to litigation. With the completion of a new EIR later this year, we are hopeful that the courts will allow the state to resume the timber management that is a key part of the forest's research and demonstration mission. Timber sales provide a significant part of the funds that support the programs of resource protection and

improvement.”

Working on this issue and others has kept Russ pretty busy in the office, but he hopes to get more time out in the field to visit the different Units and see the programs at work. Russ lives in Midtown Sacramento with his wife and is an avid bicycle commuter. He enjoys hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing and woodworking.

CDF Sacramento Employees Gift Fund makes donations to assist worthy projects

Like most units, Sacramento Headquarters had an employee-run association to recognize special occasions such as weddings, retirements, promotions and other events to minimize the need to pass the hat to collect money. Over the many years of operation it averaged about 70 members who paid into the fund. At times, it also served as a source for paying up front costs for the annual Christmas Party, the Barn Dance, the annual Statewide Softball Tournament and more.

Unfortunately like most groups, it became hard to find people to serve on the committee and to convince Headquarters employees that they should belong. When the chair retired and others transferred, dues had not been paid for three years, so it was eventually decided to close out the association. Fortunately, over the years the Gift Fund had accumulated well over \$5,000 in assets which still remained in the savings and checking accounts.

When the 100 Year CDF celebration at the capitol was planned, an appeal was made for contributions to help put on the event. At that time President Bea Walls, who was also serving as president of the 25 Year Club, was also involved in the planning and contacted former

staff chief and one time chair of the Gift Fund Brian Barrette about the legality of donating funds to help cover costs incurred in the celebration. When Brian found out how much was in the savings, they worked with former representative Gary Brittner of CDF Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit to come up with a plan to put the funds to work. It was decided to donate \$1,000 to the 100 Year event. This money was used to pay for the refreshments and the money collected from donations from the employees and retirees was used to pay for a portion of the cost of the commemorative pins that were made for the event.

Aside from that, it was mutually decided to donate \$500 to the CDF Honor Guard to support its efforts; an additional \$500 to help the 25 Year Club Website; \$1,000 to the Burn Center; \$1,000 to assist with the financial needs of the family of retired Staff Chief Ed Martin, who suffered a crippling bicycle injury; and \$1,000 to support the stipend given each year to the recipient of the Francis H. Raymond Award. The remaining funds are to be retained, in the hope that in the future, volunteers will be found and employees will once more participate in the Gift Fund and the events sponsored by it.

If you would like more information on becoming involved in the Sacramento Employee Gift Fund contact the CDF Sacramento's Public Education office at (916) 653-5123, and the staff will put you in contact with the appropriate folks.

**The California Forestry CDF 25 –Year Club was founded in 1958 by the employees of the then California Division of Forestry.*

The club has been in existence ever since as a way for retirees and long time CDFers to keep up on department happenings and stay in touch with each other. Today membership consists of 1,136 members, 30 associate members, and 84 associate life members. For membership information see the 25-Year Club website.
<http://www.cdf25yearclub.org>

“Pre-emptive strike”

by Tina Rose, fire prevention specialist II, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit

Everyone has certain traditions and customs to celebrate the holidays. Well in the foothills just outside of Sacramento, Auburn to be exact, a common tradition for celebrating our nation's Independence Day is to drive to the third highest bridge in the United States and throw fireworks off it! So the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit has a tradition of its own --a Fourth of July “pre-emptive strike!”

For the past 10 years a prescribed fire has been set to burn out the vegetation below the Foresthill Bridge. This massive bridge was originally constructed to span what would have been the Auburn Lake if the Auburn Dam had ever been built. It now crosses the north fork of the American River Canyon. Construction took four years and cost \$13.5 million. It was dedicated Labor Day 1973.

At 730 feet high, you would think that most fireworks would burn out before they hit the ground but this is rarely the case. The slopes below the bridge are anywhere from 80 to 100 percent, making firefighting anything but safe. Without the pre-emptive strike, firefighters are forced to extinguish the blaze in the middle of the night, in complete darkness. The burn is conducted under a strict prescription, but there have been a couple of years when weather or

available resources have forced cancellation. Before fire is put on the ground, 3,600 feet of hand line is constructed by CDF hand crews. The burn is usually conducted over two days, one side at a time. Approximately 52 acres were treated this year.

Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Paul Kenneweg and Operations Chief, Fire Captain Fred Lopez both watched and choreographed the operations from a catwalk attached to the underbelly of the bridge. This bird's eye view, a metal grate about three feet wide with two hand rails, is not for anyone with acrophobia! An unconfirmed rumor has Captain Lopez turning “white as a ghost” on last year's fire, when he thought he had lost his footing. This year I marveled at watching copter 205 fly below as I watched from the catwalk. I'm used to seeing our helicopters looking small above me, but now I was looking down and copter 205 looked like a toy.

The Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) assisted with traffic control during the control burn and have been stationed as lookouts both below and on the bridge for three to four days each year after fireworks go on sale. These VIP red flag patrols are a definite deterrent to anyone wishing to break the law by throwing fireworks

from the bridge. Two citations were issued this year. Another illegal activity that takes place on this infamous bridge is “base jumping,” which this year the VIP’s were able to witness and then promptly report to state park rangers and CDF peace officers.

The American River Canyon is just one of California’s most treasured areas, protected by CDF for 100 years. Protecting the canyon by initiating and implementing the Foresthill Bridge burn is just another example of a CDF tradition of adapting and overcoming when faced with a challenge.

Tehama-Glenn Unit gets in on the 100 year celebration

by Mickie Jakez, fire prevention specialist II, Tehama-Glenn Unit

CDF Tehama-Glenn Unit in Red Bluff celebrated 100 years of CDF, while the Tehama County Fire Department celebrated 75 years of service, on Saturday, June 25, 2005. The public was invited to attend an “open house” and to view historic fire equipment displays, old and new fire engines, conservation camp displays, fire prevention home clearance exhibits and a 911 safety house. There was entertainment and activities for the kids as well as refreshments.

An Ishi Conservation Camp inmate fire crew performed two demonstrations during the day: showing a tool up and deploying a fire shelter. A Haz-Mat team also did two demonstrations using the De-Con trailer and equipment.

The day began with an opening ceremony featuring a soloist performing the National Anthem, the raising of the American Flag, and welcome addresses by Unit Chief Gary Durden, Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa and Supervisor Ron Warner.

Other dignitaries that were present included Northern Region Chief Bill Hoehman, Northern Region Fire Prevention Deputy Chief Alan Carlson, Sacramento Deputy Chief Dick Hayes, Supervisor Ross Turner, Supervisor Charles Willard, Tehama County CEO Bill Goodwin and Red Bluff Mayor Andy Houghton as well as several retired chiefs and assistant chiefs from both departments.

Brenda Ballantine, director of the Northern California Burn Foundation accepted a donation

from six high school graduates who held a car wash fundraiser for their Senior Make-A-Difference Day.

Chief Durden, in his address said, “Tehama County Fire Department is a paid/volunteer department whose volunteers are the backbone of the Tehama County Fire Department.” Chief Durden was out of uniform wearing his CDF “dress” attire and a TCFD hat, but he explained there was a very good reason. “It shows the cooperation between the two departments,” he said. “We are so integrated it is hard to separate them. This unit has one of the longest running contracts in the state,” Durden pointed out.

Assemblyman LaMalfa congratulated the two departments on their years of cooperation and service to the community. “You have a big challenge in Tehama County with the terrain you have to cover,” he said. He added that he looks forward to continuing to work with CDF in Sacramento, getting everyone the equipment and training needed. The dignitaries were treated to a special luncheon provided by local restaurants and hosted by Chief Durden.

Ann and Dan Lang brought an extensive collection of CDF and Smokey Bear memorabilia and fire equipment dating back to the late 1800s.

Personnel were available to provide tours of Tehama-Glenn Headquarters including the fire

station, barracks, mobile equipment shop and emergency command center, and to view CDF helicopter 205 and other fire equipment.

Retired personnel from both agencies were available to answer questions and to talk about the “good old days” and the changes that have occurred over the years. Retired CDF Assistant Chief Elmer Benson said that when he started his career in 1948 the uniform was khaki pants, a starched and ironed khaki shirt and a hard hat. At that time, fire trucks held about 500 gallons of water, and crews had to drive to a lake or pond to refill. “It was quite a process,” said Benson. “Also, we didn’t have the communication they have today.” The equipment along with the job description has evolved over the years.

Fire prevention and fire safety activities

were available for the children that attended the 100-year celebration, including riding in a small version of copter 205.

The Salt Creek Camp mobile kitchen unit served donated refreshments. This allowed the attendees to see how firefighters are fed during major incidents.

The event was well supported by local businesses that provided prizes for a drawing and give-a-way items. The media was well represented and the event received good coverage.

The open house lasted five hours, was well attended and very successful. It was a great opportunity to share the department’s message about fire safety and to give recognition for the outstanding job that is done by the county’s paid and volunteer firefighters.

**Did you change the batteries in all your smoke detectors
when you changed your clocks for Daylight Savings Time??**

**Roughly 70% of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no
smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. (NFPA statistic)**

Humboldt-Del Norte Unit’s craftsmanship honors 100 years of CDF

The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit put its renewable resources to good use with the special woodworking project pictured above.

The North Coast Region includes a vast amount of Douglas fir and redwood timberland. Periodically the unit receives redwood and fir logs from a variety of sources which the camps then cut into boards and use to make an array of products.

One such project was a sign featuring CDF’s 100th Anniversary logo. and theme “Preserving

Our Legacy - Protecting Our Future”. Hand-sanded, routed, painted and sealed by inmates at the High Rock Conservation Camp under the leadership of Fire Captain Steve Lloyd, the 5-by-7 foot sign sits in front of the HUU Headquarters in Fortuna. A safety reminder is on the back. As the headquarters faces the main thoroughfare in town, it is on display for all passing through the community. “This was a great work of art by a talented fire captain and inmates,” said Unit Chief Tom Osipowich.

Firefighter Memorial and Aircraft Museum

by Kevin Colburn, fire prevention specialist I, Siskiyou Unit

On July 29, 2005, local, state, and federal officials gathered at the Weed Airport for a dedication ceremony for the new Firefighter Memorial and Aircraft Museum that is to be built at the Weed Airport. Siskiyou County Supervisor Bill Hoy spearheaded the creation of the memorial and museum and with the help of the Siskiyou Unit secured the first aircraft for display at the museum: CDF airtanker 94 which is an S-2A Air Tracker that had been retired from CDF service.

Eventually a memorial to fallen firefighters will be built and two other aircraft will also be part of the display, an OV-10A Bronco air attack aircraft and a UH-1 Iroquois (Huey) helicopter. To represent what aircraft will be in the museum, air attack 240 out of Shasta-Trinity Unit and copter 102 from the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit were on hand for public viewing alongside airtanker 94.

Tanker 94 was flown directly from Sacramento to the Weed Airport by pilots Cotton Mason and Bob Valette of DynCorp and made two low passes above the runway for the crowd to see before touching down for the last time at its new home.

Siskiyou Unit Chief Alan Stovall was on hand to present the aircraft to Siskiyou County and to give the history of Airtanker 94 to those in attendance, as well as introduce the pilots and other CDF and U. S. Forest Service dignitaries who attended. Those in attendance included Cascade Region Chief Bill Hoehman and Staff Chief of Operations Del Walters, both out of the Cascade Region II Headquarters in Redding, Deputy Chief of Flight Operations Jay Martinak, Chief of Aircraft Maintenance Roger Mattson, Deputy Chief of Aircraft Engineering Dave Wardall and Federal Excess Property Coordinator Allen Hanson, all from the Aviation Management Unit at McClellan. Peg Boland, Supervisor for the Klamath National Forest, and Forest Fire Management Officer Jay Perkins were also present.

Immediately following the ceremony, the public and other attendees were given the opportunity to take an up-close look at the three aircraft on display and ask questions of the pilots and flight crews before air attack 240 and copter 102 departed back to their home bases and the preparations to display airtanker 94 began.

****In 1973, the CDF Airtanker Program of today formed its roots when two Navy Grumman S-2s were acquired, modified and the prototypes placed into service. Ten more S-2s were modified during the 1973/1974 winter months and 12 were ready for service during the 1974 fire season. In 2005, phase out of the last of the original S-2s is completed with the final conversion of CDF's larger and faster 23 S-2Ts.***

Early CPR / automated external defibrillator save a life

A Mariposa man returned home alive thanks to a newly purchased automatic external defibrillator (AED).

On Thursday, May 26, 2005, at approximately 4 p.m., Above All Towing received a request for service on Tip Top Road. Manager Shawn Knell responded to the request and found a man that had both his pickup and tractor stuck. After some conversation with the owner, Knell began working on the vehicles. As he was working, he turned his back toward the owner's pickup and saw the owner fall down face first.

Knell dropped his chain and ran to the man to check for responsiveness. The man was unconscious, so Knell yelled for the man's wife to call 911. He then rolled the man over and couldn't detect breathing; he opened up his airway and could not detect a pulse.

Knell began chest compressions based on his knowledge from previous CPR classes. Knell and his wife were given further CPR instructions by the 911 dispatcher. Engine 4262 out of Usona Fire Station arrived and took over CPR and care of the patient. Engine 4262 was staffed with Fire Captain Steve Leonard, Firefighter I Disan Perez, Firefighter I Vance Killion and Firefighter I Charles Crim. Ironically, a brand new AED, one of four to be put on CDF engines in Mariposa County this past spring, had been put into service on Engine 4262 just two days prior on May 24, 2005.

The crew from Engine 4262 connected the AED to the patient and it indicated that a "shock" was needed to alter his heart back to a "normal" rhythm. The crew delivered the shock and it successfully forced his heart back to a normal rhythm and he regained a weak pulse.

Four minutes later Mercy Ambulance Medic 22 arrived, staffed with Paramedic Zach Ford, Emergency Medical Technician Scott Turpin and volunteer "ride-a-long" Dan Smith. Paramedic Ford aggressively treated the patient with Advanced Life Support (ALS) intervention and he was transported to the Usona Landing Zone. From the Usona Landing Zone, the patient was flown by air ambulance to Doctors Hospital in Modesto.

After a couple of weeks in the hospital where the patient survived a couple of "challenges," he recovered well enough to be released. The man has now been home on Tip Top Road for several weeks and is doing fine.

In addition to the emergency personnel mentioned above, Mariposa County Sheriff's Department and Mariposa County Fire Department also responded to this incident. All of the emergency personnel involved in this incident should be commended on a job well done! Early CPR and early defibrillation are the keys to saving adult cardiac arrests. In this case, it can be said that it truly saved a man's life.

****In 1970s, the fire service as a whole underwent significant changes when fire departments were required by law to provide basic life support services to the citizens they service. CDF emergency personnel respond to more than 195,000 emergency medical service (EMS) calls each year statewide. That includes auto accidents, drownings and technical rescues. CDF also provides early defibrillation for cardiac arrests.***

Community appreciation in Shasta

by Clyde Gamma, fire captain, Shasta-Trinity Unit

Sugar Pine Conservation Camp, located in Shasta County, held its eighth annual Car and Motorcycle Show on Sunday, June 5. CDF and the *California Department of Corrections (CDC) hosted the event. Representing the community was the Little Country Church from Redding. This unique group has participated in the Car and Motorcycle Show every year, and does so to convey the community's heartfelt appreciation to the inmates in recognition of their efforts in providing fire suppression and community service projects.

In 2004, two major fires (the Bear Fire and the French Fire) besieged Shasta County. A local disaster was declared by the Shasta County Sheriff and ratified by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors. Sugar Pine Conservation Camp staffed seven fire crews, as well as the in-camp fire brigade, to aid in the fire suppression efforts. After these fires, the conservation crews dedicated hundreds of project hours to rehabilitate the fire ravaged communities in preparation for the upcoming winter storms.

It was efforts like this that JoAnn Ralston of the Little Country Church volunteered to help assist with the Car and Motorcycle Show.

"Everybody needs an 'atta boy'. It's an appreciation day, to tell them that we see what they do in our community and we appreciate it," said Ralston. The Car and Motorcycle Show gives the inmates a chance to participate by judging the vehicles in an award winning competition. Those in attendance enjoyed a picnic style barbecue with musical entertainment provided by the Little Country Church band.

CDC Camp Commander Lieutenant Mark J. Ahlin and CDF Division Chief Kathleen Schori personally hosted the event. Non-agency participants in the show followed stringent security conditions including background checks, imposed by CDC in this invitation-only event. Guests included Tim Ransdell, the deputy warden at the California Correctional Center in Susanville, and his wife Sharon. It is through his support that Sugar Pine Conservation Camp has the distinction of being the only camp in the state to host a car and motorcycle show.

**The CDC is known as the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as of July 1, 2005.*

****During WWII, much of the fire fighting workforce used by the Division of Forestry was committed to the war effort. CDF, the Department of Corrections (CDC), and the California Youth Authority (CYA), joined forces to establish 41 temporary camps to augment fire fighting resources. Today, there are 39 camps statewide, providing 199 fire crews year-round. Crews are also available to respond to floods, earthquakes, search and rescue, and more.***

In Memory

Chris Kanton

CDF once again mourned the loss of one of its own when CDF/Riverside County Firefighter II Chris Kanton, 24, was killed August 6 in the line of duty.

Chris and two fellow firefighters -- Fire Apparatus Engineer Michael Arizaga and Firefighter II Richard Bruning -- were responding to a call for assistance when their engine was involved in a single-vehicle accident on Interstate 10 in Beaumont.

The engine left the freeway and traveled down a steep embankment, struck several trees and came to rest on the roadway below. Firefighter Bruning received minor injuries for which he was treated and released. FAE Arizaga sustained moderate injuries and was hospitalized for ongoing evaluation and observation. Both are back to work.

Services for Chris were held in Riverside and in his hometown of Paso Robles. Both were a fitting tribute to a firefighter who was continually remembered by those who knew him as a genuinely nice guy who loved being a firefighter.

Donations can be made to the CDF Riverside Chapter Benevolent Fund, 21160 Box Springs Rd., Suite 105, Moreno Valley, Calif., 95227; or to CDF/SLO Firefighters Benevolent Fund, P.O. Box 3095, Paso Robles, Calif., 93477.

Chris is survived by his wife of six months, Kathryn; his mother, Mary; father, Paul; and sister, Heather.

Communique'

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